
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore
Mississippi and Florida Districts



Seashore Patch Program

*Helping Our Youth Today
Become Stewards of Our National Treasures Tomorrow*

Did You Know?

Gulf Islands National Seashore was authorized on January 8, 1971 "in order to preserve for public use and enjoyment certain areas possessing outstanding natural, historic, and recreational values" along the central Gulf Coast. The seashore consists of twelve areas in Florida and Mississippi encompassing approximately 97,109 acres.

The park protects barrier islands, marine ecosystems, salt marsh estuarine and maritime forest ecosystems, and cultural sites ranging from early colonial through the Second World War. Among the many outstanding features are historic fortifications, white sand beaches, and designated wilderness areas. A true national treasure, Gulf Islands National Seashore ranks among the most popular National Park Service areas, with annual visitation exceeding five million.

The patch symbolizes the theme of protection which runs through Gulf Islands: the natural protection the islands provide the mainland; the



historic protection of the coastal forts; and the current need to protect their historic and natural values. This is Gulf Islands National Seashore.

12/2001

TO THE LEADER

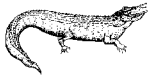
Welcome to Gulf Islands National Seashore!

By participating in the Seashore Patch Program, youth will learn more about the cultural and natural resources of the seashore and the importance of involving the community in their protection.

Through both indoor and outdoor activities, the program strives to increase awareness, knowledge, and commitment to protecting our environment. We hope to instill curiosity, a sense of stewardship, and the beginning of a life-long appreciation for the beauty and value of nature preserved within our National Parks.

The patch program is available to all interested groups. Depending on the age, youth may participate as individuals or as a group in order to accomplish the activities. You can participate in this program in the Mississippi District or Florida District of Gulf Islands.

Patch Requirements:



Complete these activities in the Mississippi District



Complete these activities in the Florida District



Ages 6 - 8 years you must complete 5 activities in this booklet.

Ages 9 and older you must complete 8 activities in this booklet.

The patch is available for purchase through the Gulf Islands National Seashore bookstores in both Mississippi and Florida. A 20% discount will be provided to groups of 11 or more individuals. When purchasing 11 or more patches, call the visitor center to insure quantity of patches.

Please fill out the participation report included in this manual and leave at the front desk of the visitor center. The comments provided will help to improve the program for organized groups.

Thank you for your time, interest, and effort. Have fun learning about your National Seashore.

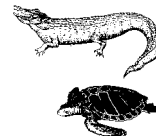
Field Ethics and Safety

We want you to have an enjoyable and fun visit at Gulf Islands National Seashore, so please read the following field ethics and safety tips before starting the program.

1. Leave the natural environment as it is found with little or no human impact. Remember that all plants and animals within the park are protected. Please help by not feeding, killing, or injuring any of the wildlife or disturbing plant life. Offering food to wildlife is unhealthy for the animals and potentially unsafe for you.
2. Be safe and stay on the trails to avoid poison ivy. This plant secretes oils that can cause a harmful rash in humans. Remember: "Leaves of three, let it be!"
3. Avoid fire ant mounds. The ants have a painful bite!
4. Beware of bees. Sometimes they are attracted to soda cans and picnic lunches.
5. If you encounter an animal that is acting abnormally, leave it alone and contact a park ranger.
6. Wear a hat and sunscreen and drink plenty of water when hiking in the park, especially if you visit the barrier islands.

PLEASE DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE!

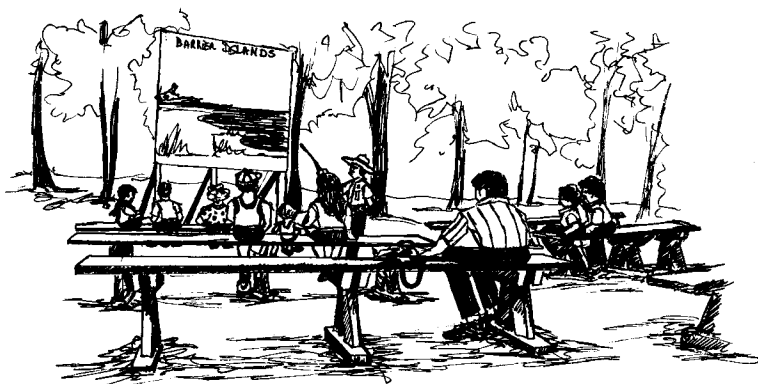


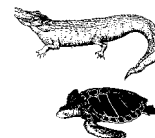


Activity 1 - Visiting a National Park

Some things are permitted in a National Park and some things are not. Put a check mark () by the things you think you can do in the park.

- ___ I can take pictures of the things I see.
- ___ I can pick flowers and bring them home.
- ___ I can attend a ranger program and learn about the park.
- ___ I can cut down a tree if I want to.
- ___ I can get a close look at an alligator by offering it food.
- ___ I can ask a ranger for help if I need it.
- ___ If I don't like snakes and see one, I can kill it.
- ___ I can camp in the park.
- ___ I can take a walk on a nature trail.





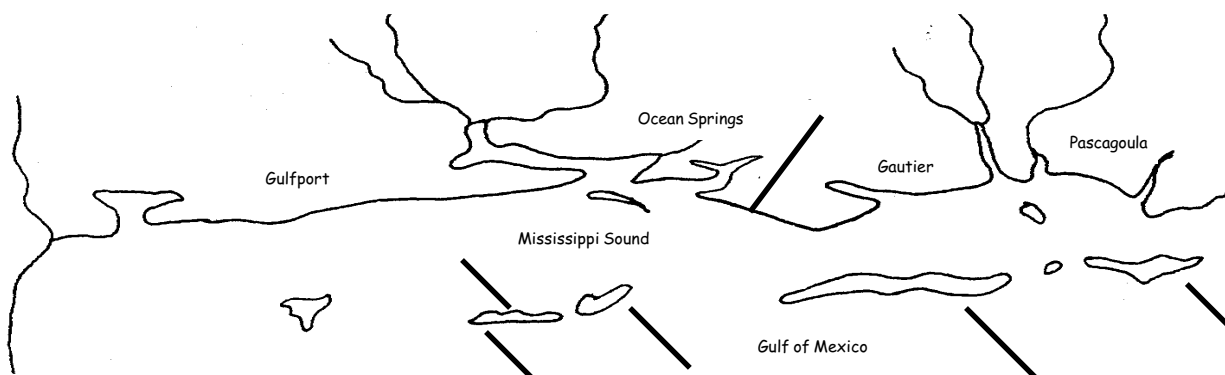
Activity 2 - Where Am I?

Gulf Islands National Seashore includes both land and water in the states of Mississippi and Florida. In both areas of the park, you can find interesting places to visit. Label one or both of the maps below using the abbreviations. Put a "star" where you are now.

Mississippi District

Davis Bayou Visitor Center (DB)
East Ship Island (ESI)
Petit Bois Island (PBI)

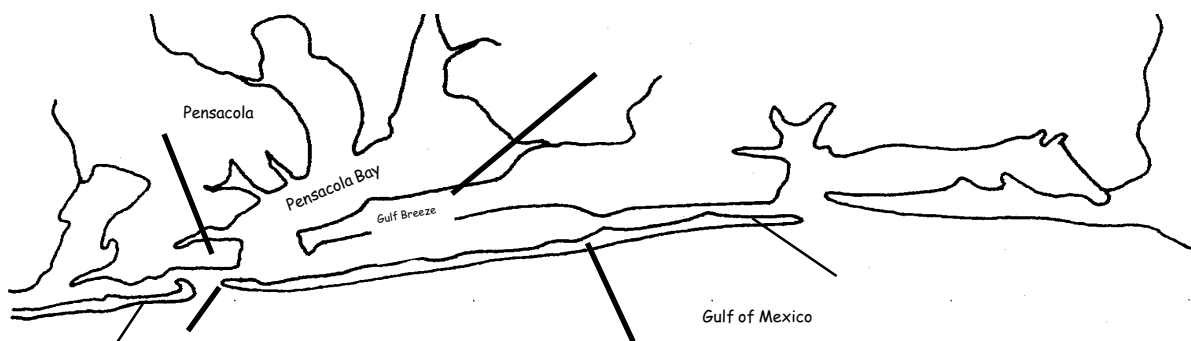
West Ship Island (WSI)
Horn Island (HI)
Fort Massachusetts (FM)

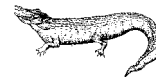


Florida District

Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center (NLO)
Santa Rosa Area (SRA)
Perdido Key (PK)

Fort Barrancas (FB)
Fort Pickens (FP)
Okaloosa Area (OA)





Activity 3 - Tides, Winds, and Waves

Watch the video "Tides, Winds, and Waves" at the Davis Bayou Visitor Center and answer the following questions. This video can be seen in the visitor center auditorium.

Name the painter and writer who spent a lot of time camping on Horn Island. His paintings can be seen in a visitor center exhibit.

Fort Massachusetts is located on _____ Island.

_____ Island is considered a wilderness island.

Why are barrier islands important? Circle your answers.

- a) to protect the mainland from storms
- b) to provide habitat for many plants and animals
- c) to provide a place where I can swim, fish, and hike





Activity 4 - The Islands Speak

Watch "The Islands Speak" slide program at the Naval Live Oaks Visitor Center and answer the following questions.

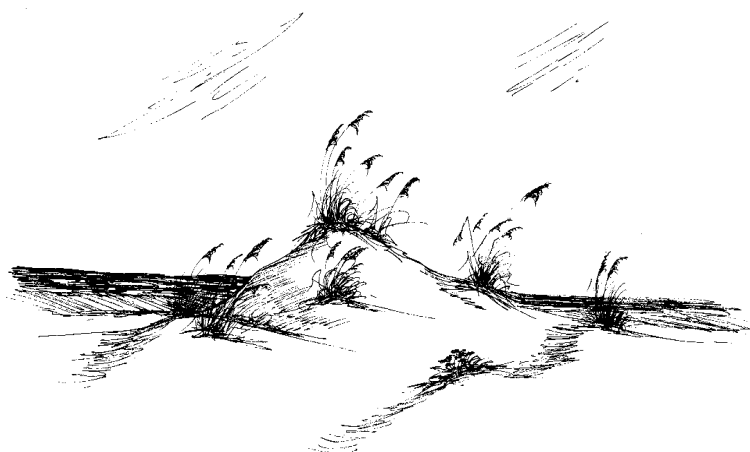
Before the United States was a country, early coastal defenses were constructed by the _____, _____, and _____.

Put these coastal defenses in order from earliest used to the most recent. Number them 1, 2, or 3.

- _____ masonry and stone forts
- _____ rifled artillery and mine fields
- _____ sand and timber forts

What ecosystems will you find on a barrier island?
Circle your answer (s).

- A. dunes
- B. ponds
- C. forests
- D. salt marshes

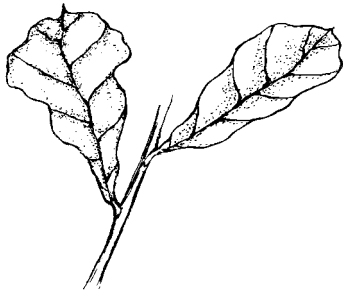


True or False Barrier islands are constantly moving and changing.

Activity 5 - Tree Identification



Take a walk on the boardwalk behind the visitor center and find these trees. Once you have found them, draw lines to match them to their leaves. Remember: all plants are protected, so please don't pull leaves from trees.



Clue: Leaves are rounded and frequently 3-lobed. The fruit is an acorn.



Clue: Flowers are small, greenish-yellow and are surrounded by 4 white modified leaves. Leaves grow opposite each other.

Dogwood

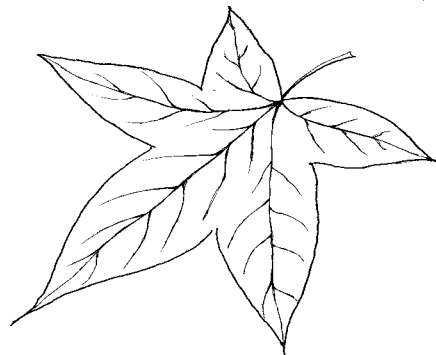
Water Oak

Sweet Gum

Hickory



Clue: Compound leaves with 5 or more leaflets and fruit is a nut.

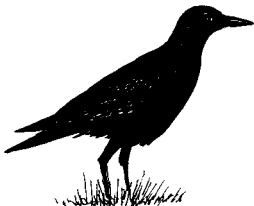
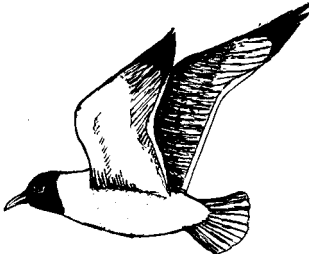

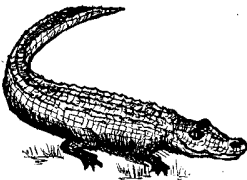
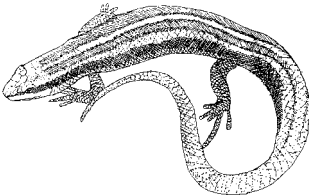
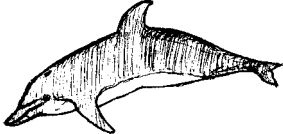
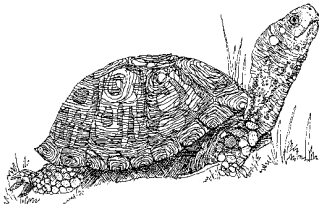
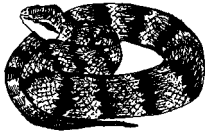



Clue: Leaves are star-shaped and fruit is a spiked ball.

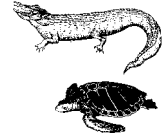


Activity 6 - Park Bingo

Find these animals in the park and put an X on its picture.
When you get three across, down, or diagonally you have a park bingo! (Note: Alligators are not as common in the Florida District).

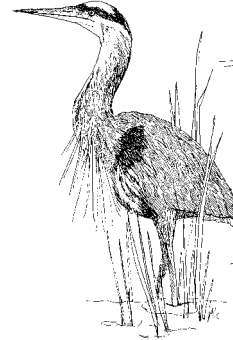
 Crow	 Laughing Gull	 Raccoon
 Alligator	 Five-lined Skink	 Bottle-nose Dolphin
 Box Turtle	 Eastern cottonmouth	 Great Blue Heron

Activity 7 - Animal Olympics



Compare yourself to animals found in the park. If you are visiting in Mississippi, you can use the Junior Ranger corner of the visitor center to complete this activity.

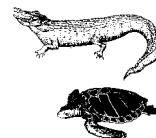
A sleeping heron can stand on one leg for over an hour. I can stand on one leg for _____ seconds.



A bald eagle may have a wingspan of 7 to 8 feet. I have a wingspan of _____ feet _____ inches.

Owls have the ability to stare for hours. I can stare at myself in the mirror without blinking for _____ seconds.





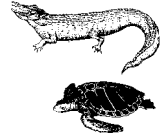
Activity 8 - Discovery Hike

Take a Discovery Hike on any of the park's trails. Put a check mark () by the things you see, hear, smell, or feel as you hike through the park. Remember: Do not collect any plants or animals.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a pine tree | <input type="checkbox"/> the warmth of the sun |
| <input type="checkbox"/> an animal home | <input type="checkbox"/> a change that happens slowly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a shady spot | <input type="checkbox"/> an insect on a plant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a seed | <input type="checkbox"/> something that is young |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal track | <input type="checkbox"/> something that is old |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a rotting log | <input type="checkbox"/> an animal with fur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a sunny spot | <input type="checkbox"/> a soaring bird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a feather | <input type="checkbox"/> a bird singing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a cool breeze | <input type="checkbox"/> something with six legs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a warm breeze | <input type="checkbox"/> an animal with scales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a chewed leaf | <input type="checkbox"/> a yellow or purple flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a sweet smell | <input type="checkbox"/> the sound of water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> something that has no place in nature | |



Activity 9 - Interviewing Park People



Park rangers perform a wide variety of duties in managing parks, historical sites, and recreational areas. Park volunteers are very special people who volunteer their time to help rangers with many park jobs.

1. What is the name of the park ranger or volunteer you interviewed?
2. How long has she/he worked or volunteered at Gulf Islands National Seashore?
3. What job does she/he perform?
4. What does she/he like best about their job?
5. Why did she/he become a park ranger or volunteer?
6. Would you like to become a park ranger or volunteer?



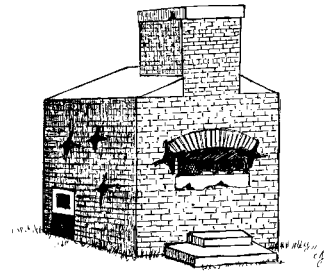
Activity 10 - The Fort Barrancas Story



Watch the video at Fort Barrancas and answer the following questions.

1. How many slaves did it take to build Fort Barrancas?
2. What was stored in the wood-lined rooms inside Fort Barrancas?
3. The forts in Pensacola were built to protect what two things?

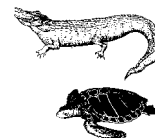
4. What was the Hot Shot Furnace used for?



5. The Pensacola forts saw action during which war?

6. Who first built the Water Battery?

7. Yes or No Can you take home a brick from Fort Barrancas as a souvenir?



Activity 11 - Seashore Search

A seashore is a special place where two worlds meet; the sea and the land. Take a walk on the beach and circle the things you see. Please do not remove animals or plants.

heron	egg-case	pelican	flower
driftwood	empty shell	osprey	root
lighthouse	jellyfish	hermit crab	turtle
bone	raccoon	sand dollar	fish
dolphin	barnacle	feather	seed
clam	sandpiper	spider	lizard
gull	seaweed	muskrat	snake
park ranger	butterfly	animal track	bee
marsh grass	pine tree	mosquito	fort
dragonfly	ghost crab	alligator	leaf



Activity 12 - Island Treasures

Unscramble the letters to find out what kind of island treasures are found on the beach. You can use the words from the list below.

1. AKSTE GEG ASCE
2. ONOM LASIN
3. HHEESSROO RCBA
4. GLHINGNIT KELHW
5. NABALREC
6. ASE SART
7. DANS LOLDRA
8. EOCCLK LSLEH



Lightning Whelk



Cockle shell



Horseshoe crab



Sea Star



Moon snail



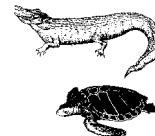
Sand dollar



Skate egg case



Barnacle



Activity 13 - Reach for the Beach

Thousands of volunteers participate each September in the International Beach Cleanup. Beach cleanups play an important role in protecting the coastal and marine environments that we all enjoy.

Participate in a cleanup by requesting a plastic trash bag and gloves from a visitor center. Walk the beach or a nature trail and collect trash along the way. Record the number of each item on the data sheet below. Leave all sharp objects, including broken glass, where you find it. After the cleanup, please put your trash bag in the trash can.

Shoreline and Recreational Activities (Trash from beach-goers)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bags/Food Wrappers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cups, Plates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Balloons | <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic Beverage Bottles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass Beverage Bottles | <input type="checkbox"/> Beverage Cans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-Pack Holders | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |

Ocean/Waterway Activities (Trash from fishing boats)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bait Containers/Packaging | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Nets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buoys/Floats | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Lures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light Bulbs/Tubes | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil Bottles |

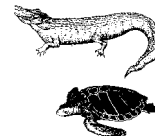
Smoking-Related Activities (Trash associated with smoking waste)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cigarettes | <input type="checkbox"/> Cigarette Lighters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tobacco Packaging/Wrappers | <input type="checkbox"/> Cigar Tips |

Did you find anything unusual?

Discuss with your group how this trash could harm animals.

**Do your share, show you care by participating in beach cleanups.
You can make a difference!**



Activity 14 - Wilderness

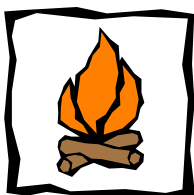
What does the word "wilderness" mean to you? When you take a trip to a wilderness area, what do you expect to find? Write down your thoughts and discuss them with your group. (Younger children can draw a picture).

"In wilderness is the preservation of the world"
Thoreau

Activity 15 - Wild About Wilderness



When visiting a wilderness area, it is important to minimize the impact of our visit. To the left and to the right are some pictures illustrating the "Leave No Trace" principles. Draw a line from each of the principles in the center to the picture that best illustrates it.



Where fires are allowed, use fire rings that are already there and keep fires small.



Respect other visitors and remember that they want to enjoy the outdoors too.



Watch wildlife from a distance and don't follow or approach animals.



Use trash cans for your garbage if available. If trash cans are not available take all trash with you.



Leave rocks, plants, fossils, and other objects where you find them so that others can enjoy them too.

Plan ahead and prepare

Camp and travel on hard surfaces

Properly dispose of waste

Leave what you find

Minimize use and be careful with fire

Respect Wildlife

Be considerate of others



Using hard surfaces prevents damage to soil and plants.



Plan your hike and know the rules. Learn as much as you can about the area you will be visiting.



Activity 16 - Concrete Batteries

Concrete gun batteries with steel guns appeared after the brick forts and cannons were no longer powerful. Visit Fort Pickens and answer the following questions, using the self-guided brochure called "Coastal Artillery" and the exhibits at the structures.

1. Looking at the map, how many concrete batteries were placed on Santa Rosa Island by the U.S. Army?
2. What kind of rifles were mounted at Battery Langdon?
3. Why was Battery Pensacola placed in the middle of Fort Pickens?
4. At Battery 234, _____ helped direct gunfire from the different batteries using the triangulation principle.
5. How was Pvt. Hugo W. Paap killed at Battery Payne?
6. Do you think it is important to protect these historic structures?
If so, why?

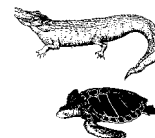


Activity 17 - Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail

Become a naturalist and hike the Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail in Loop A of the campground and learn some interesting facts about the plant life of the Florida coast. Using all your senses, **look** carefully for wildlife, **listen** closely for the sound of the ocean waves, **feel** the leaves of the fetterbush, and **smell** the fresh aroma of salt air mixing with marsh plants.

1. **Muscadine grapes** are vines that climb high into trees, because of their _____. Have you ever seen muscadine grapes for sale at the grocery store?
2. **Live oak** was used for _____, because of its large, arching branches.
3. **Slash pine** occurs along streams, _____, and low land areas.
4. Cones of the **sand pine** remain on the tree for many _____.
5. **Wax myrtle** berries have a large amount of wax and were once used for _____.
6. When the **fetterbush** or **lantern bush** blooms, its flowers are _____ shaped. A good naturalist clue for identifying the fetterbush is feeling the vein on the backside of the leaves.
7. Soldiers at Fort Pickens may have used dried **yaupon holly** leaves to make coffee. How do you think yaupon holly got the scientific name *ilex vomitoria*?
8. Why was the **saw palmetto** so important to the Native Americans in Florida?





Activity 18 - Sea Turtle Search

Sea turtles are amazing **reptiles** that live in the **Gulf of Mexico**. Four species of sea turtles can be found visiting **Gulf Islands**. They are the **leatherback**, **Kemp's ridley**, **loggerhead**, and **green** sea turtles.

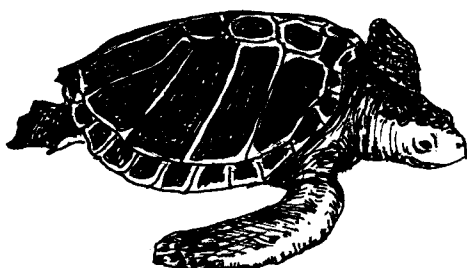
Barrier islands are important nesting sites for laying their **eggs** in the sand. Baby sea turtles, called **hatchlings**, are usually only about 2 inches long.

All species of sea turtles are **threatened** or **endangered**. Endangered means that an animal is in danger of becoming **extinct**. Endangered also means there is still time for us to protect and take care of these magnificent creatures of the sea. You can help by picking up all your **trash** after a visit to the beach.

Did you know that sea turtles can mistake plastic bags and balloons for food?

Discuss with your group, what would happen to turtles if they ate this trash.

Go on a sea turtle search and see if you can find the highlighted words above. Draw a circle around the words in this word search puzzle.



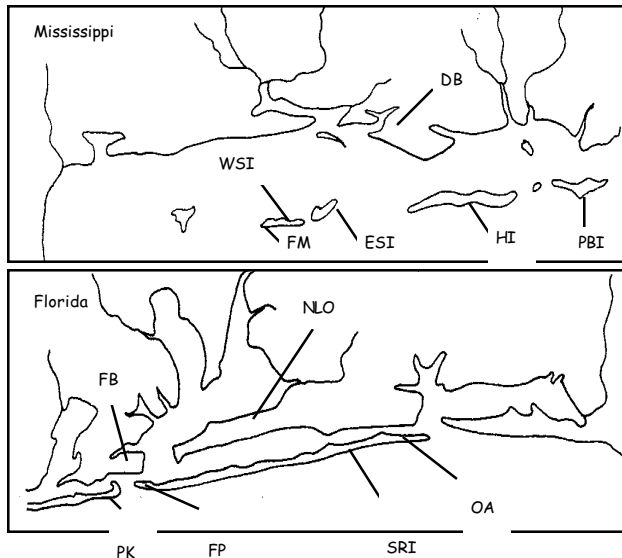
K	G	L	O	G	G	E	R	H	E	A	D	K	E
Q	C	U	D	E	X	T	I	N	C	T	C	E	N
H	K	R	L	F	A	D	N	A	M	A	S	M	D
A	C	M	C	F	N	A	S	U	S	B	E	P	A
T	A	T	Z	L	O	G	B	B	R	G	L	S	N
C	B	I	R	U	S	F	S	D	G	E	I	R	G
H	R	O	H	A	U	H	M	S	L	N	T	I	E
L	E	J	T	G	S	G	R	E	E	N	P	D	R
I	H	V	P	N	D	H	M	K	X	F	E	L	E
N	T	I	S	L	A	N	D	S	J	I	R	E	D
G	A	B	A	R	R	I	O	K	V	P	C	Y	R
S	E	D	E	N	E	T	A	E	R	H	T	O	Z
Q	L	N	S	D	N	A	L	S	I	F	L	U	G

Answers to Activity Pages

Activity 1 - Visiting a National Park

These are the things you can do in the park:
 I can take pictures of the things I see.
 I can attend a ranger program and learn about the park.
 I can ask a ranger for help if I need it.
 I can camp in the park.
 I can take a walk on a nature trail.

Activity 2 - Where Am I?



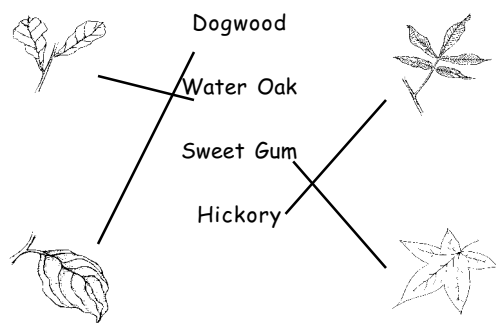
Activity 3 - Tides, Winds, and Waves

Walter Anderson; West Ship Island; Horn or Petit Bois; a,b,c

Activity 4 - The Islands Speak

British, Spanish and French;
 2 masonry and stone forts
 3 rifled artillery and mine fields
 1 sand and timber forts
 A,B,C,D
 True

Activity 5 - Tree Identification

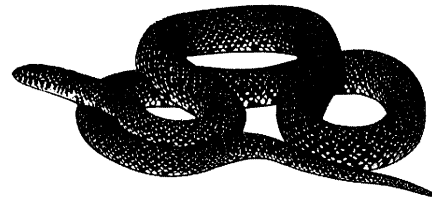


Activity 10 - The Fort Barrancas Story

1. 60
2. Gunpowder
3. Pensacola's Harbor and Navy Yard
4. To heat cannon balls before firing them at wooded ships.
5. Civil War
6. Spanish
7. No

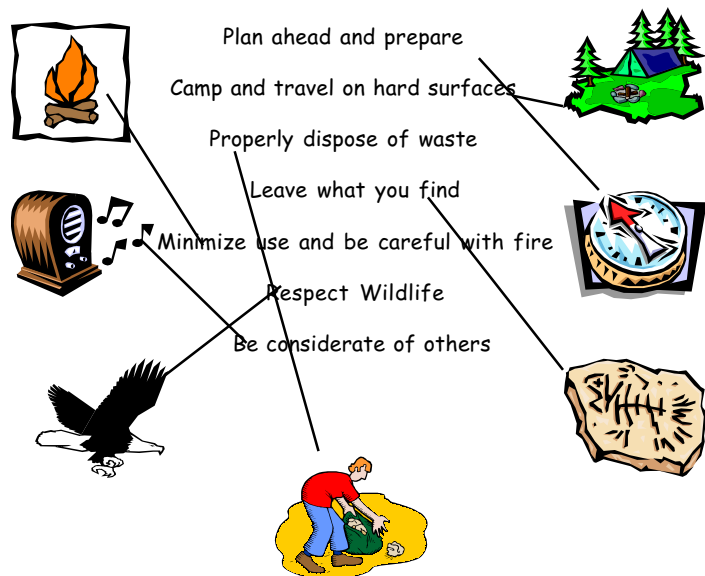
Activity 12 - Island Treasures

Skate egg case
 Moon snail
 Horseshoe crab
 Lightning Whelk
 Barnacle
 Sea star
 Sand dollar
 Cockle shell



Speckled King Snake

Activity 15 - Wild About Wilderness



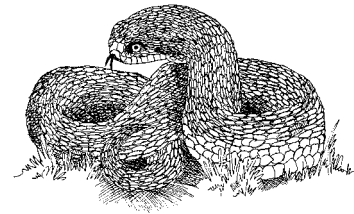
Answers to Activity Pages

Activity 16 - Concrete Batteries

1. 10 on Santa Rosa Island (on the map #5 list two batteries, Cullum & Sevier).
2. 2 12-inch rifles
3. To hide the building from ships at sea.
4. range-finding station
5. A gun tore from its mount during a practice run and hurled down at the Pvt. Hugo W. Paap.

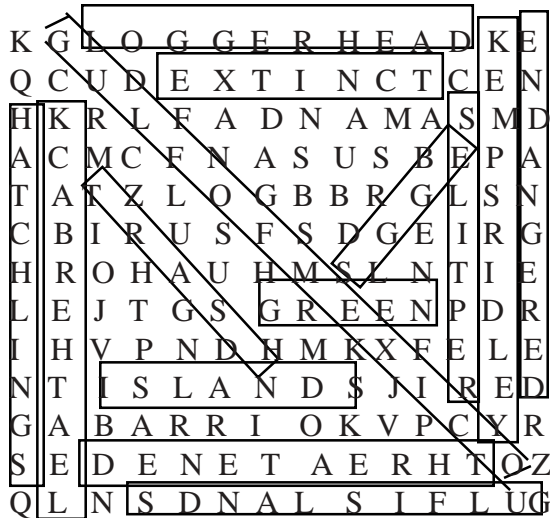
Activity 17- Blackbird Marsh Nature Trail

1. tendrils
2. ship building
3. swamps
4. years
5. candle making
6. bell
7. If the soldier made the leaves too strong it would cause vomiting.
8. The fruit was a staple in their diet.



Hog-nosed Snake

Activity 18 - Sea Turtle Search



For more information about the Seashore Patch Program, contact the park at the address below or www.nps/guis.gov.

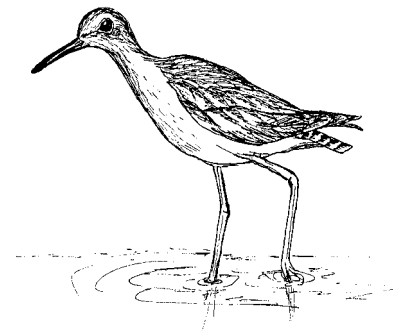


Mississippi District

Gulf Islands National Seashore
3500 Park Road
Ocean Springs, Mississippi 39564
Attention: Seashore Patch Program
(228) 875-0074

Florida District

Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563
Attention: Seashore Patch Program
(850) 934-2635



This booklet was developed by Park Rangers,
Susan Merrifield and Amanda Carrigan-Grissom.
Art work by Cathy Justis and Lisa Crow.

Notes

Seashore Patch Participation Report

Help us to improve what we think is a valuable and fun program for youth. After completion of the program, please fill out the participation report and leave at the visitor center.

Thanks for your help.

Group name:

Group leader:

Phone number:

Number of participants:

What activities were completed?

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 5. |
| 2. | 6. |
| 3. | 7. |
| 4. | 8. |

What activities were enjoyed most?

Suggestions for future activities:

What did the participants learn from this program?

What did you learn as a leader?

